

The last six months have been busy and exciting for the Corporate Finance and Financial Services teams.

We have been recognised as the No. 1 law firm advising on M&A in the UK's Mid-Market for the number of deals completed in the first half of 2015, by *ThomsonReuters* and *Mergermarket*.

Here is a selection of the transactions that the Birmingham team has advised on.

#### **Marston's PLC**

Acting for Marston's PLC on its £25.1 million acquisition of the trading operation of Thwaites' beer division. The acquisition included two leading premium brands, Wainwright and Lancaster Bomber ales.

#### **Peel Hunt LLP**

Advising Peel Hunt LLP as nominated adviser and broker on the IPO of Curtis Banks plc, one of the largest providers of self-invested pension products. It started trading on 7 May 2015 and raised £7.5 million from institutions to accelerate its acquisition strategy, valuing the company at approximately £85 million on admission.

#### **Growth Capital Partners LLP (GCP)**

Advising Growth Capital Partners LLP (GCP) on its investment and purchase of Flydocs Systems Limited and its subsidiary in India, a flight technology specialist.

#### **Rotala Plc**

Acting for the Birmingham based transport group Rotala Plc on two acquisitions: its purchase of the entire issued share capital of Lancashire based bus company Green Triangle Buses Limited and its acquisition of the business and certain assets of Wings Luxury Travel Limited.

#### **Yongtai Group**

Acting for N Press Assembly, an acquisition vehicle owned by Yongtai Group (the Chinese investors behind Covpress) on the £30m acquisition of the business and assets of Canley based engineering firm UYT Limited, which supplies car components to firms including Honda.

#### **Numis Securities Limited**

Advising Numis Securities Limited as nominated adviser and broker on the proposed AIM admission of Hunters Property plc, one of the largest national sales and lettings estate agency businesses in the UK. Hunters announced its intention to float on AIM on 18 June 2015 with an expected admission date of 2 July 2015.

#### **Invenergy / Enerco**

Advising the co-sponsors in connection with the US\$115m financing of Phase III of the Darlowo Wind Farm, in north west Poland; which is Poland's largest wind farm. Funding was provided by The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and a club of Polish banks and the transaction was a collaboration between our Birmingham and Warsaw offices.

#### **Ridgian Limited**

Acting for the shareholders of the Midlands based IT consulting business Ridgian Limited on its disposal to Ricoh UK Limited.

#### **DESSA Limited**

Acting for the shareholders of scaffolding business DESSA Limited on the sale of 60% of the company's share capital to joint buyers Trad Hire & Sales Limited and Generation Holdings Limited, both subsidiaries of the French-owned Altrad Group.

#### **Mobeus Equity Partners Limited**

Advising Mobeus Equity Partners LLP on its largest investment to date of £11.6m into Media Business Insight Limited.

#### **Leumi ABL Limited**

Advising on the amendment and restatement of various ABL facilities to Bromford Industries Limited, a local midlands aerospace business.

#### **Avanta Serviced Office Group plc**

Advising AIM-listed Avanta Serviced Office Group plc on a takeover by Tosca Vehicle Limited, a newly incorporated company of Toscafund Asset Management. Avanta is a fast growing AIM-listed company providing serviced offices.

#### **The Royal Bank of Scotland plc**

Advising RBS in connection with new facilities of £18m to Rotala Plc. The funding will enable the business to fund new acquisitions and share buy-backs.

## New Appointment

We are also delighted to announce the appointment of a new corporate partner in our Birmingham office, Andrew Glaze who has joined the firm from SGH Martineau.

Andrew has over 17 years corporate finance experience, including as a director at Wragge & Co, in particular specialising in mergers and acquisitions and equity capital markets transactions.

In the face of client demand we have been looking to expand our corporate team in Birmingham. Andrew is an experienced, dynamic lawyer, well known in the market and by our team and we are excited to announce his arrival.

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